

MTM/VF EIS

Community Narrative: Scarlet, West Virginia

Interviewer: Have her opinions too. That would be great. Why don't start off and just tell me a little bit about how you came to live on Scarlet Road in that area there. Did you have family living there?

Resident II: My wife's family was born and raised right there. Her mother and dad, her grandmother, they're all buried right there in Scarlet.

Interviewer: I saw, we saw a couple of family cemeteries up there.

Resident II: Even the great great grandfather was born there.

Resident I: My great great grandparents were buried there and they lived there.

Resident II: And I married into the family and look what happens.

Resident I: I'm not the only one. There's two more of us.

Interviewer: So you lived there. When did you get married and lived in that area.

Resident II: Oh goodness.

Resident I: 1956.

Resident II: 1956, yea.

Interviewer: So did they start to do a majority of the strip mining.

Resident II: They didn't start then. They didn't start until in the 60s.

Resident I: 70s. There was a strip back then, remember the old strip where they did the auger mining.

Resident II: I think back in the late 60s.

Resident I: No, that was in the 70s. The Hobet mine started their mountaintop removal in the late 80s.

Resident II: Ashland Oil, actually.

Resident I: Ashland Oil owns Hobet mining and they started in the 80s.

Interviewer: Well then, what would you say was one of your favorite parts about living there before the mine or during?

Resident II: Before the mine?

Interviewer: Ever, how about that.

Resident II: The peace and quiet.

Interviewer: Peace and quite, yeah.

Resident I: Everybody that we lived with and around us was friendly. Everybody was like one big family. They would help each other. We would all help each other. And, now, we are all separated and scattered just everywhere.

Resident II: We're scattered miles apart. From Chapmanville to over in Kentucky. There is some people live up in there yet.

Interviewer: We have been talking to a number of people but were hoping to talk to some people who live up there still.

Resident II: I've got a brother-in-law lives up there. They're right at the head of the left fork.

Interviewer: One of the things that we are looking at is what changed in the community after the mining came in. About what you liked about it or the physical changes or the economic changes, any of those sorts of things that you could tell us about.

Resident I: Well, one thing we all got together because we had approached ... several, myself and several other residents, had went to the EPA office in Logan and we had complained about the gas and the hazards and the streams being nasty, muddy and things like that. And they come out and started talking to everybody in the community and then we went to one big meeting where they interviewed all of us that attended this meeting.

Interviewer: There were some representatives from the office in Logan or?

Resident I: Right. And also some representatives from Ashland Oil, Hobet Mining.

Resident II: Regulations then wasn't quite as strict as they are now. Especially on water quality.

They made 'em clean dams and before we didn't. They put in, what, straw bales and stuff like that to help try to stop the mud and stuff. Now, they're pretty strict on it.

Interviewer: In the 70s actually they did a lot of legislation. Do you remember . . . tell me a little bit more about what you were talking about at the meetings before the mining . . .

Resident II: I didn't go to that meeting so I really couldn't comment on it too much. I know everybody was stirred up because we was getting such tremendous blasts.

Interviewer: So that was already after the mining had started – that meeting?

Resident II: Yes, it got bad there for a while. They even put a seismograph in my yard and then they quit shooting that hard, after they put the seismograph in.

Resident I: You talking about on Scarlet?

Resident II: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you see the readings on the seismograph or did they just tell you?

Resident II: Well you couldn't see them because they were on a tape inside of them. But now I had a house, a new house, from here to that fireplace from the seismograph and it was sheet rock and drywall and it cracked it to pieces. I had to go in there a fix a lot of the seams. It shook it to pieces.

Interviewer: Were there any other physical changes from your house to your....?

Resident I: Concrete cracks.

Resident II: Yea, the foundation is cracked. Water.

Resident I: My house was on a good professional, solid... everything - it was a brand new home. The concrete foundation was cinderblocks. The blasting moved it approximately, I would say, 6 to 8 inches off the foundation.

Interviewer: Did you complain directly to the company about that sort of thing?

Resident I: Yes I did.

Interviewer: What kind of an interaction did you have with the company about that?

Resident I: The company was great about it. They were very cooperative.

Interviewer: That's good. Tell me again about the meeting that you had gone to that was something that the Department of Natural Resources, the state, did those people call the company to come meet with you or how did that meeting come about?

Resident I: We insisted on the meeting so something could be done on our behalf and we blocked... we asked that their mine permit be blocked until they at least did something to accommodate us and help us first. And the permit was denied.

Resident II: You file a complaint over there and they'll set up a meeting.

(some people come into the room and a dog is barking)

Resident I: This is "specific name", our daughter.

Interviewer: Hi, I'm Alexa. Nice to meet you. We were just going through with your Mom and your grandpa here what they went through on Scarlet Road, what some of the changes that occurred on Scarlet Road after the mine came in and started to be active. You mentioned something about your water, your well?

Resident II: Yea, after they blasted so much, it started to turn black. I had perfect water, I didn't even have to have a filter on it at first, a water filter. Three houses.

Resident I: We had particles in it. Sometimes it was red too.

Resident II: Well, it did turn red, but it wasn't before.

Resident I: It stunk, it had an odor.

Resident II: It just acted like it come right out of an underground mine, that water did. Where before it was just as clear; it was perfect water.

Interviewer: Were there any other changes in the community like anything to do with employment? Did people work for the mines there?

Resident I: There was only a very few people. They brought a lot of people. That was another complaint that we brought up at that meeting. There was a lot of employees that worked right there in our back yard. They supplied jobs for hundreds of people who were brought in here from out of state instead of employing our guys that were probably more qualified and certified and had all the qualifications they needed to go to work there.

Interviewer: So were there...?

Resident I: They were denied jobs. My husband, which is “specific name’s” dad, was one of them. That was one complaint that I did bring up at the meeting.

Interviewer: Did you see any benefits in the community? What kind of changes? Were some of them positive?

Resident I: While this was going on?

Interviewer: From the mining?

Resident I: No.

Resident II: No, there wasn’t nothing done for us.

Resident I: Other than, you know, purchasing our property which, that was good and bad, because, why should we have to pull up stakes and move away from where we were born and raised and raised our children? Only to come around here and then this mine started up and started doing the same thing or even worse.

Interviewer: What about, um, can you tell me a little bit about, you said that your interactions with the coal company were pretty good when you had complaints, and that they were good about some of that stuff. Did you talk to them at all before they came in to the community to do the mining? Did they . . .

Resident II: No. It took a long time for them, where we could get them, we got them to the point where we could talk to them. They ignored us to start with, didn’t they “specific name”? Until you started filing them complaints over there with the EPA and then they took notice. Cause they were gonna get shut down.

Resident I: By DNR.

Interviewer: Did you guys read about the permits that they posted in the paper? Did you see those?

Resident II: I read them all the time.

Interviewer: You read them all the time? Did they put them, where did they put them in the paper generally? Like in the, like right up front or is it varies, . . .

Resident I: Usually, it was like on the third page.

Resident II: Sometimes it was on the back, inside back page.

Interviewer: Did they put it in the local paper, or the papers you get here as well as the state papers?

Resident I: Local paper.

Resident II: Local paper. It is probably published it in like Logan County, the Logan paper too.

Resident I: But I noticed when they put that in there to kinda show you the map, it's not legible. You can't even hardly read it.

Resident II: You can't read it.

Resident I: You can't read where they are talking about.

Resident II: If you don't know the territory, you don't know. You wouldn't know.

Interviewer: Right, so the maps aren't very helpful at all?

Resident I: No.

Interviewer II: What would make the maps more legible?

Resident I: If they were printed in the paper. I don't know if it's the newspaper's fault or what, it's both of them, the company and the newspaper's fault. Number 1, the company doesn't specify well enough when they put the little directions and their legends and things like that and their arrows and the route number, like the road numbers, or dimensions, or whatever.

Resident II: It could be faxed in too and they're not too clear.

Resident I: Plus, you know, like when the newspaper prints it off, I don't know, it comes out looking yucky and you can't read it.

Interviewer II: So, there definitely needs to be improvement in the clarity of the maps they are providing.

Resident II: Yea, I looked at one today and you couldn't even tell nothing about it.

Interviewer: I would be interested in seeing that before I leave if you still have it.

Resident II: Well, where's your paper at?

Resident I: In the kitchen.

Interviewer: Well, you all tell me, are there any other impacts or any other changes that were in the community, for example, sometimes - schools? Did the children's population change so that the schools were changed in any way?

Resident I: Yea, the population changed. A lot of people moved out of the state, out of the county.

Interviewer: Now what that mostly because they were looking for jobs in general or because they wanted to move out of the area because the mining was going on.

Resident I: Both.

(Map is shown to interviewer)

Resident II: Now, you try to read that.

Interviewer: Yea.

Resident II: You couldn't tell east from west by that.

Interviewer II: Yea, you clearly can't read this.

Interviewer: What kind of places did most of the people that lived in the holler work? All over?

Resident II: Different mines, different things too. Some logged, some worked in the mines.

Resident I: Strip mining, underground mineing. Coal truck drivers.

Resident II: The biggest problem right in this area right now is the underground mines. That's the biggest problem.

Interviewer: Underground mines? What problems? Leaking?

Resident II: Because of the cave-ins, and the water problems. That's one reason I think we got city water all over the county now, public water.

Resident I: Well, we don't actually have it yet, but they are trying to get it put in and that would help if we could get it.

Interviewer: We saw the signs and we saw about them coming in. And some places have got it and some places haven't.

Resident II: Riffe Branch has got it, Duncan Fork's got it.

Resident I: This mine over here, okay, has destroyed the quality of our water okay. Now we are gonna have to pay a monthly bill and pay for hook-up on this new water line that is going in and that is not fair.

Resident II: \$300 hook-up fee. Because of the size of it.

Resident I: I heard it was \$500. And then a monthly bill.

Resident I: And we have to dig from the road . . .

Resident I: Yea, the only thing they are gonna do is put a meter in out there where their lines are and we have to dig it and put the rest of it in.

Resident I: That's a lot of digging for each one of these...

Interviewer II: So it is a \$500 tap-in fee to the actual line, and you have to have a contractor that you pay for by yourselves to come in and actually install the lateral and come off the main line and actually hook up and make it serviceable . . .

Resident II: And it's all . . . I don't think . . . 90% of it is the underground mining, not strip mining. I mean, I..

Resident I: Well, that's for this area. Now, there are people in other areas that are having big time problems with strip mining and surface mining, but now right here, we're having problems with this tipple, the dust, the blasting. Not to mention, I ride four-wheeler in there and got in behind this mine where their sludge pond is and it is super, super huge. If it breaks, there will be nothing left in this bottom, we will all be washed a way.

Resident II: Now that's deep mines. That's a deep mine over there too, and a strip.

Interviewer II: Are those ponds that you're talking about up the valley here, at the head water here?

Resident I: It looks like a large lake.

Resident II: It has fine coal particles in it and they settle to the bottom . . .

Resident I: It looks, I couldn't believe it was that big.

Resident II: You read about that big coal sludge spill over in Kentucky didn't you?

Interviewer: Yeah, in Inez?

Resident II: Well, that's just like a river of goo going down the creek.

Resident I: Our creek that we have is not going to handle this if it breaks back there.

Resident I: You all have no clue how big that is.

Resident II: I seen it once.

Resident I: It's bigger. I mean it is... It is too big and too dangerous.

Interviewer: What else can you tell me about . . . we haven't talked about much about, when you decided, or when you were offered to move out of Scarlet. How did that come about? Did you approach . . .

Resident II: Well, there were so much complaints that Ashland Coal decided evidently to buy most of the people out. So, that was an opportune time for us to get out of there.

Interviewer: Had you thought about leaving before that?

Resident I: No.

Resident II: No, we didn't want to leave really.

Resident I: Why would we want to leave? We just through building a new home.

Interviewer: You built a new home?

Resident II: I had three houses there. Besides her's, new home that she built.

Interviewer: If you had to put it into words, what would you say was the reason you primarily left?

Resident II: I was afraid of getting blown off the face of the Earth.

Interviewer: Blasting?

Resident II: Blasting!

Interviewer: What was the . . . how did the discussion go between you and the company about purchasing your home?

Resident II: They were real good about it, wasn't they?

Resident I: Yea. But the gentleman who came out to work out a deal with us was extremely nice.

Resident II: Yea, I dealt with him twice.

Resident I: Cause he was . . . the left hand fork. They were bought out then when they first started. So, he comes down the holler, all the way to the end, purchased another property down there. We all moved down there and here they come again. The mine it's expanded . . .

Interviewer: So you actually moved twice?

Resident I: Yeah. We moved twice.

Interviewer: And so you dealt with the same agent twice?

Resident II: I built two new homes in that area.

Interviewer: When you moved the first time, did you discuss with them whether or not . . . did they ever talk to you about where you were moving to?

Resident II: Not really. No, not really.

Interviewer: And what would you say that . . . how did things go between you and the company in terms of fairness?

Resident II: Well, they were really fair about it. We got more than market value. You know, you couldn't have got that much at a market value.

Resident I: They told us they would give us a little more than the market base. They offered us like a certain percentage more for the inconvenience.

Interviewer: And did they help you with the move at all?

Resident I: No, we had to move ourselves.

Interviewer: Did they give you any relocation money or anything like that, any moving money?

Resident II: Yes, they give us \$5,000. But \$5,000 doesn't go very far on building a home. You couldn't put a roof on that house for \$5,000.

Interviewer: Did they discuss with you at all whether or not they would be expanding when the first time you moved?

Resident I: No. We never dreamed it was gonna get that big.

Interviewer: One of the things that I was curious to find out from you all, given the fact that, you know, your whole family lived in there and the community was pretty closely tied to family obviously, for the people that are still there, and for the people that have moved out, do you feel like there are any tensions between or, that the community was changed in any way by that or your family relationships were changed by that?

Resident II: No, it didn't affect our family relationship at all.

Resident I: I think it did.

Resident II: You do?!

Resident I: Yea, because of the change of environment. Like you said before, it was new people.

Resident II: Oh well, I thought about location.

Interviewer II: Would you move, now since the mining is not... it really isn't active in the Scarlet area in terms of where the community that you lived, would you consider, if you were offered to buy the land back, would you consider moving back there?

Resident I: I might consider it.

Interviewer: And, as far as you know, did the mining company offer or indicate that they would offer you the opportunity to purchase your land back?

Resident II: I wouldn't. I tell you the reason why. There gonna come back there and get that coal anyway.

Interviewer: So there's, you feel there's still more coal to mine?

Resident II: Well, sure.

Resident I: There sure is. This company is headed way. This company is headed in that direction. They are already, I've been reading the newspaper, they are putting mining permits in, that one that you just had is for that area.

Resident II: 14 acres.

Resident I: I mean, every time you pick up the paper, there's more permits they keep applying for. It's not over. There's still more coal to mine.

Resident II: There's all kinds of coal in there yet.

Resident I: That old strip mine that's in there, the one they used an auger, they're gonna go back and get that. So....

Interviewer II: What made you chose this area to relocate to?

Resident II: Well, I like this bottom, and it's a nice big flat bottom and I didn't want to live across from no creek and up no holler.

Interviewer: Do you feel like you're better off? I mean I think I know maybe what you might say to that answer, but do you feel like you're better off here than you were there?

Resident I: We were until this mine started.

Resident II: Yea, that's about the way I feel about it.

Interviewer: Well, I think I covered everything that we wanted to . . .

Interviewer II: What would you feel, if there is anything the coal companies could do, do you feel that when you were in Scarlet that the coal companies, it sounds from what we are hearing that they had a good public relations program at least. If you voice an opinion, their response was you felt they were concerned enough they would come out and talk to you. You felt that they did an adequate job in that respect? I mean, granted there's some negative impacts. You folks were displaced from your community that you were born and raised in. But you felt that they responded to your concerns overall? What's your general sentiment or feeling about that?

Resident I: At first no. After all the complaints started, yes.

Resident II: After they were forced into it. It was either listen to the public or be closed down, it was as simple as that. If there was enough people going against the permits, they are not going to get it.

Interviewer: It's interesting that you raise that point, because I know I have talked to some people and sometimes you hear that they feel like they are going in and saying something isn't gonna get much done. And some people like yourselves feel differently that it's better go in and you can get something done. Why do you think you feel that way maybe?

Resident I: Because we know we can.

Resident II: Some people have a defeatist attitude about them too, you know. Oh what's the use? You can't fight the company. Well, yea you can fight the company. You see, he is defeated before we start.

Interviewer: So you just had confidence that you could get it done and that's . . .

Resident I: We're both Capricorns.

Resident II: Aquarius.

Resident I: Now that's right, you're Aquarius aren't you? We're left handed.

Interviewer: I'm not sure how I can put that in the study, but I'll try.

Resident II: Okay.

Resident I: Determination.

Resident II: I'm an Iowa Hawkeye, that's what I am.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Resident II: Yea. He's originally from Iowa.

Interviewer: I grew up in Kansas. You're a little bit closer to where I'm from . . . Kansas

Resident II: Cornhuskers.

Resident I: No, Iowa's Cornhuskers.

Resident II: No it ain't.

Interviewer: Nebraska I think are the Cornhuskers.

Resident I: I thought we were the Cornhuskers.

Resident II: Hawkeyes.

Laughing

Resident I: I remember going to school out there. Kindergarten and first grade.

Interviewer II: Did the coal company that you knew back in Scarlet, after they made the initial contact, during that time you had complained, you said that's when they started to come to you and talk to you? Did you feel that was something you had to keep complaining to keep that contact?

Resident I: Oh yea.

Resident II: Oh yea.

Interviewer: I mean if you felt that after the initial contact that you wouldn't have made any more follow-up complaints that you probably . . .

Resident I: It was a constant thing for a long time. Phone call after phone call. Letters. I mean it was just like negotiations.

Interviewer: Uh huh, that takes a certain amount of emotional and just wear and tear on your life.

Resident II: Yea, they don't, they would have kept right on the way they were going if we hadn't protested long enough. We weren't the only ones. There were a lot of people protesting.

Interviewer II: Do you feel in that respect after what the coal companies had gone through and seen, you know the, I guess the impact that it has on families and local communities, do you think that they are ever going to think about what the impacts or detriments, other than in terms of past or history, what has happened, do you think that they would start going into new areas, with their feeling would be 'let's look and see what our impacts would be on this community up front?' Or, do you think that they possibly may want to wait until . . .

Resident I: It depends on the company.

Resident II: Right, there you go.

Interviewer II: More or less one company might be . . . I'm not trying to excuse it, but I'm just trying to say that it's more of a management standpoint, like what decisions are made in terms of how the company is run, if they want to be a good neighbor, or if they don't choose to be a good neighbor, so to speak? Do you think it's based upon how the company is run?

Resident I: Right.

Interviewer II: So one area might be good, the other areas may...

Resident II: I think they ought to hire a good PR man.

Interviewer II: Do you see, I mean in the Scarlet area, I mean, overall, what was your feeling about the company? I mean, do you think they were good or . . . granted I know what you guys, I understand and hear what you have gone through, but uh . . .

Resident I: I was upset with the company, because I was a very young mother – she was a baby - when they first started. Crystal, my oldest daughter, had two small children at home and my husband, “specific name” was unemployed and very qualified, he was a truck driver. And he applied for a rock truck driving job back there. I felt, you know, I was kinda happy when I first heard, you know, that all, there was gonna be a lot of jobs, he'll get a job back there - a good paying job with insurance for my children. He didn't get it.

Interviewer II: Is there any reason why, did you understand why he was not hired? You know, if it's personal, you don't have to answer that.

Resident I: There's no reason why he should not have gotten a job. He was qualified, cause he drove truck for years.

Resident II: They would get somebody from some other area.

Interviewer II: So basically the employment opportunity was given to people that actually didn't live in the community.

Resident I: Right.

Interviewer: Are you finding any change even with other coal companies? Have you heard other people about employment benefits. I mean there is nothing . . .

Resident I: We have a lot of people in this area that does work, now Massey, A.T. Massey owns most of the permits of the mines here now. Arch Mineral is, they purchased Ashland Oil. They have some here, but A.T. Massey is the majority. And they do employ a lot of the men in this area.

So, as far as jobs are concerned, they are employed.

Resident II: They get a lot of contract miners too.

Resident I: Yea, sometimes they use a lot of contract. But still our men are being employed.

Interviewer II: At least in this case.

Resident II: Yea.

Resident I: Yea.

Resident II: But now A.T. Massey is a company that you can't fool, they are such a huge company.

Interviewer: Uh hum, a lot of them have been bought out by companies like that. Is there anything that we haven't discussed that you want to be sure and talk to us about?

Resident II: I can't really think of anything.

Resident I: All right... you all, this interview today is you're just basically concerned with Scarlet. Why is that?

Interviewer: Because what they asked us to do was to look at five areas that were adjacent to the surface mines. Scarlet was one of the areas that was picked to talk to the people who lived in those areas to get a real assessment of what happened and that specific area. Which is not to say, you know, it wouldn't, that the discussions wouldn't have relevance about what's happening to you here, now. But, the Scarlet area was the area that was sort of picked. So, we are talking to people who lived there now and who used lived there and bought out.

Interviewer II: One of the things you are looking at is like six case study communities, if you will, and Scarlet was one of the case study communities as part of that in terms of gathering information that would help write the case studies, in addition to like all types of demographic information was actually going out and identifying randomly folks like yourself who we can actually sit down and talk to and sort of get a more of a candid objective viewpoint of what your experiences were.

Resident I: Well, why pick something that happened to us 10 years ago? Why not discuss what is going on now? Why not address the problems that are happening to the communities now?

Interviewer: Yea, I'm glad you made that... I think the idea is we won't figure out how to change what's happening now unless we understand what happened then. They'll take the information that we gather in places like Scarlet and they will be able to look at . . . because, you know, I'm sure you understand that a lot of the discussion we hear from both sides of the issue, from all sides of the

issue, there's more than two are that some things, they tell us that some things are occurring in communities and then you hear from another group that another thing is occurring. So, if we look at an area like Scarlet where it has already happened, we can go back and look at all that, as Troy said, that demographic data, like, you know, population and income that the Census Bureau collects and get an idea of what actually did happen and then talk to those people and then, sort of use all that information to look at the legislation for now, is what that means. So that hopefully the communities where it's going on now and where it will be going on next, the next community, that if any changes, ought to be made, that's what will happen. That we will learn from this.

Resident I: I think something that needs to be done now with ... the people...

I don't know what in the world we're gonna do. Like, that lives this close to this mine here. Like I said, I mean, you can look at my window sills, you can look at my ceiling fan, you can look on their back porches, in their carpet, in her house, I mean it's just nothing but black. It is dirty, nothing but coal dust. And the blasting and uh, we had a problem, or have been having a problem with these large coal trucks going in right there. There have been so many wrecks out there, due to that problem.

Resident II: And they start banging their tail gates about 5:00 in the morning. Bang, bang, bang.

Resident I: We have to listen to that "beep, beep, beep, beep", the backup horns are on all the heavy equipment. Yea. They just put in that load-out. The coals got to go up right there where you can see 'em. They back up there and from that little tailgate... it sounds like an explosion. And they start, I mean you can't sleep for it. Did you hear the backup horn right there? I do!

Resident II: Sounds louder in the bedroom. Somebody evidently has been complaining about the dust because they put automatic sprinklers on the road over there.

Resident I: And, that makes another hazardous problem. It makes the road gooey.

Resident III: On this road right up here?

Resident II: No, on the roads going up to that load-out.

Resident I: I know when they start coming out of there, that junk comes out on the tires and it gets on the road. I've done that ...

Resident II: When it first starts sprinkling rain on this road, it's slick, just like it's got a film on it.

Resident III: There was a car... a van, ran into a school bus on that hill up there because of that problem.

Interviewer II: Yea, it's just like a slime. What do they do in the winter time? Do they keep that

outside . . . ?

Resident II: Oh yea, they put graders and equipment on there right quick.

Resident I: Salt.

Interviewer II: Salt it down. Does that mean... Course with the snow and everything there... that would help keep maybe the dust down, cause that is moisture on it, and salt would melt, but how about when it's deep cold winter and it's a cold sunny day, I mean, how do they keep the dust or how do they protect the dust by putting water on that, certainly that would freeze up . . .

Resident I: They can't do it.

Interviewer II: Well, that's what I was thinking, that you've still got the problem in the wintertime.

Interviewer II: Yeah, one of the things, too, the reason why we are looking at, you know, Scarlet, versus what's happening now is try to get an assessment of what the community was like before the mine came in, what it was like during the mine operation when you folks were living there and of course, afterwards, we are finding out in Scarlet, residents like yourself were bought out and had to be displaced because of the activity that was going on. It sort of gives a whole scenario of what happened in that one instance. And right now, in this mine, I think we are in the period of right now. We don't know what is going to happen after this mine leaves, you know. Who knows what the future may hold . . .

Resident I: Oh, well there's several... ah, there is year, years there. Because the old type coal mining, underground mining, they couldn't get all the coal and now they have this new type of mining, miners.

Interviewer II: Did that give you in a sense a sort of a better idea, you asked the question why not look at what's going on now? The whole direction that we have been given is to look at, you know, an area, that has actually gone through the transition stage of before mining, during mining and after mining. Scarlet is one of the prime examples that has actually experienced a whole transition of what's happening. You can almost see the full effect of what occurs and you folks are the recipients of all that.

Resident I: Yea, somebody has to be the guinea pig.

(CHILD AND MOTHER SPEAKING WHILE INTERVIEWER IS TALKING)

Interviewer: I know that our information doesn't make it any easier to put up with what's going on down the road right now.

Resident II: It was an awful good little community to live in, I'll put it that way.

Interviewer II: Just as a side note, you folks had blast and pre-blast surveys done on your homes?

Resident II: Yea, we did.

Resident I: He did, before blasting started last year. They . . .

Resident II: They're talking about Scarlet.

Interviewer II: I just mean in general.

Resident I: That's something else that I have been fighting this company about. They made a statement, on paper, that they offered me a pre-blast survey on September 1999, September 19th or something like that . . . I got pictures and videos and tickets. I was in Decatur, Alabama, at our World Celebration Show with horses, so there's no way that they could have called me and asked me and that I would have refused a pre-blast survey. So they put together a bogus statement. Okay and then the seismograph, I don't believe those readings it for a minute. The first seismograph they had it over, on the other side of that big house there.

Resident II: These coal companies will lie like dogs.

Resident I: You can just kick it and mess it up. We know a enough about that stuff.

Interviewer: Uh huh, Uh huh.

Interviewer II: You said in Scarlet you had a seismograph instrument placed there and you questioned the readings it was giving after it was put in place.

Resident II: It absolutely shake them houses, dishes would rattle in the kitchen.

Interviewer II: Were pre-blast surveys done back in Scarlet on your homes?

Resident II: Yeah, it was on mine.

Resident I: Not mine. I don't know why.

Resident II: They done a print out of the house, where seismograph what done was sittin. They had a pre-blast survey. They just walked through and looked at it. Now they take the photographs.

Interviewer: Did it make any difference in your discussions with the coal company having that pre-blast survey?

Resident II: Did it make any difference with them?

Interviewer: Uh huh?

Resident II: Oh, not at first I don't think. I think it took a while. They were denying it. That they shooting that hard. When everybody knew they were shooting as hard as they could shoot.

Interviewer II: Now is there any, in this case, with this mine, do you think that there is better public relations or . . . involvement with the community.

Resident I: No, worse. It's worse.

Interviewer II: So I guess basically you are saying that definitely there is room for improvement.

Resident I: Absolutely.

Interviewer II: You know, in terms of . . .

Interviewer: Is there anything else that you wanted to tell us?

Resident II: Well she's held the floor so long, she won't shut up. (laughter)

Resident III: I don't know enough about that. I don't remember.

Resident I: Well, you were little.

Resident II: You remember the blast don't you?

Resident III: I do remember.

Interviewer II: How many years ago did you move away from the Scarlet area? Maybe you said that earlier.

Resident II: In 1991.

Interviewer: Do you remember at your school, lots of kids from families moving out and things like that? Was your school closed down at one point?

Resident II: Was it at Myrtle then? The grade school was in Myrtle. Do you know where Myrtle is? That was the grade school. There were a lot of kids in that hollow. Almost a bus-load.

Interviewer II: And that school was you thought was directly impacted by you being displaced or was there other factors?

Resident III: I think so, because it shut-down when we moved.

Resident I: It shut down after that. I went to grade school there.

Interviewer: Where do the kids who live there now go to school?

Resident III: A lot of them live down....

Resident I: They had to be bused farther. Lenore area.

Resident III: Everybody moved. They moved mostly to the Lenore area, kept them mostly, kinda in the same area.

Interviewer: Yea, I think that is about all the questions we have for you all.

Interviewer II: We try to keep these to around about 1 hour so that we don't take up much of...

Interviewer: If you think of something later that you want to be sure to tell us, you should feel free to call us or if you have questions about, you know, what we are going to do with the information or the study, you can call us. Or, on that letter I gave you the Environmental Protection Agency Project Manager's name and phone number and e-mail address are there so you can talk to them directly if you want. He would be happy to talk to you.

Resident II: I think the state has made it, has made Massey furnish those people water when they sunk their wells and stuff over there. And aren't they gonna pay their water bill for 20 years?

Resident I: I've been hearing that. Like I said, like they're headed towards Scarlet. Duncan Fork comes first, then Scarlet, which is very close, and they have already sunk their wells and are supplying them with water.

Interviewer: I don't know the details of what arrangements have been made for them in terms of paying for the water, but it is my understanding that they are going on public water if they are not already on it.

Resident I: Yea, I rode, you can ride, you can go up here and go up in the mountains and ride the four wheeler all the way over that area and I come upon several places where they're building water towers.

Resident II: I think that was in the long-range plan.

Interviewer: By the? By who?

Resident II: By the coal companies.

Interviewer II: The water towers?

Resident II: The water system. I think they knew, they knew what they was gonna do. They done the same thing over at Beach Creek and Bend Creek over here in that area where they use that long-wall mining. They sunk all them peoples' water over in there. You've gotta have coal mining, but ah... there is a right way and a wrong way.

Interviewer II: Yeah, it is a major economy, major part of your economy down here . . .

Resident II: Well you close a mine down, and that trickle down effect... uh huh boy...it's bad.

Resident I: A lot of people are out of work. Like I told you on the phone, I'm not against mining whatsoever, it's just that those of us that feel the effects of the damages and things like that. You know, they need to take care of us. Do something to prevent further damage, to keep us safe, you know, stuff like that. But, on the good part, for the men that need a job to support their family, it is great.

Interviewer: Well, I think that's why it's such a difficult issue.

Interviewer II: Well we thanks for your time.

Interviewer: Yeah, we really appreciate it.

Interviewer II: We do apologize up front for not calling.

Resident II: I really hope we helped you with whatever you're...

Interviewer II: Well, we want you to feel like you have helped. Because, believe me, we have had a lot of other people say we don't what we say they don't know how it's going to help, but by actually getting your input, that's part of our job in trying to contact you folks. Talk to you about these issues and that's a real big part.

